

CHARTER AND BY-LAWS

OF

The Church of St. Matthias,

IN THE

CITY OF PHILADELPHIA.

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PHILADELPHIA :

1867.

# CHARTER

OF THE

Church of St. Matthias.

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WHEREAS, The following-named persons, citizens of this Commonwealth, viz., LEWIS R. ASHURST, JOHN W. CLAGHORN, CHARLES V. HAGNER, CHARLES E. CLARK, ISAAC C. PRICE, CHARLES C. HAFFELFINGER, ALBRA WADLEIGH, EDWARD GULAGER, JACOB EMERICK, SAMUEL SIMONS, JOHN MARSTON, Jr., JOHN R. WHITNEY, and WILLIAM STEVENSON ABBOTT, have, together with other citizens, associated for the

purpose of worshiping Almighty God, according to the faith and discipline of the Protestant Episcopal Church in the United States of America; and have for that purpose formed a Congregation in the Fifteenth Ward, of the City of Philadelphia, and are now desirous to be Incorporated, agreeably to the provisions of the Act of the General Assembly of Pennsylvania, entitled "An Act to confer on certain associations of the citizens of this Commonwealth, the powers and immunities of corporations, and bodies politic in law, and the supplements thereto." They, therefore, declare the following to be the objects, articles, and conditions of their said Association, agreeably to which they desire to be Incorporated, viz.:—

*First.* The name of the Corporation shall be the "CHURCH OF ST. MATTHIAS."

*Second.* This Church acknowledges itself to be a member of, and to belong to, the Protestant Episcopal Church in the State of Pennsylvania, and the Protestant Episcopal Church in the United States of America. As such it accedes to, recognizes, and adopts the Constitution, canons, doctrine, discipline, and worship of the Protestant Episcopal Church in the State of Pennsylvania, and of the Protestant Episcopal Church in the United States, and acknowledges their authority accordingly.

Any member of this Church, or Corporation, who shall disclaim or refuse conformity to the said authority, shall cease to be a member of this Corporation, and shall not be elected, or vote in the election of Vestrymen, or exercise any office or function in, concerning, or connected with the said Church or Corporation.

*Third.* The rents and revenues of this Corpo-

ration shall be, from time to time, applied for the maintenance and support of the Rector, Ministers, and Officers of said Church, and in the erection and necessary repairs or expenses of said Church, Church-yard, Parsonage house, and other houses, which now do, or hereafter shall, belong to the said Corporation, or in renting or furnishing any building or buildings necessary for Church purposes, and to no other use or purpose whatsoever. *Provided*, That all the property of the said Corporation shall be taken, held and inure, subject to the control and disposition of the Vestry of the same; and *Provided*, That the clear annual value or income of the real and personal estate, held by the said Corporation, shall not, at any time, exceed Five Thousand Dollars.

*Fourth.* The Rector of this Church shall be elected by the Church Wardens and Vestrymen, in such manner as the Statutes and By-Laws shall ordain. The Vestry of the said Church shall consist of thirteen persons, lay members of the said Church, and citizens of Pennsylvania, who shall continue in office for one year, and until others be chosen, and the election of whom shall be made every year, on Easter Monday, by a majority of such adult male members of the said Church, as shall appear, by the Vestry Books, to have paid, for one year, immediately preceding the time of such election, for a pew or sitting in said Church. *Provided*, That until the first Easter Monday after the completion of the Church edifice, or use of the same for the purpose of religious worship, every contributor towards the erection of the said Church edifice, or the support of the Rector or Minister thereof, shall be entitled to vote at every election of Vestry-

men, one vote for every one hundred dollars of such contribution. *Provided*, That in case of the failure to elect Vestrymen on that day, the Corporation shall not, on that account, be dissolved; but the election shall be holden on some other day, in such manner as the By-Laws may prescribe; and any vacancy occurring in the Vestry, shall be supplied by the remaining members thereof. At the meeting of the Vestry, the Rector, if present, may preside, and in all matters, except such as concern the property of the Corporation, shall, in case of a tie, be entitled to give the casting vote.

*Fifth.* No person shall be Rector or Assistant Minister of this Church, unless he shall have had Episcopal Ordination, and unless he be in full standing with the Protestant Episcopal Church in the State of Pennsylvania, and in the United States, and recognized as such by the Bishop of this Diocese; or, in the case of a vacancy in the Episcopate, by the Standing Committee of the Diocese.

*Sixth.* The said Vestry shall have full power to choose their own officers; and they shall annually, at the first meeting after their election, choose one of their own number to be one Church Warden, and the Rector, for the time being, shall elect another of the said Vestrymen to be the other Church Warden of the said Church. In case of a vacancy in the office of Rector at the time of the election, the other Church Warden shall also be chosen by the Vestry, to remain until the election of a Rector, or a new election of the Vestry; and, during such vacancy, all the powers of the Corporation shall be exercised by the Vestry, as fully and entirely as if no such vacancy had occurred.

*Provided always*, That it shall be the duty of the said Church Wardens and Vestrymen, to elect another Rector to supply the vacancy, as soon as conveniently may be.

*Seventh.* By-Laws, not inconsistent with this Charter, may be made by the Vestry, for their own government, and the regulation of the temporal affairs of the Church; and all pews and sittings in the said Church shall be held subject thereto.

*Eighth.* This Charter shall be amended in the following manner,—that is to say:—Any proposed amendment shall be submitted to a Stated or Special Meeting of the Vestry, and, if the same shall be approved by a majority of the whole of the members thereof, the same shall be submitted to a Meeting of the members of the Congregation, who are entitled to vote for Vestrymen, and, if approved by a majority of the persons present at such meeting, the same shall be submitted to the next Convention, and if by it approved, shall be and form part of the Charter, upon the subsequent confirmation thereof by the Court which granted the original Charter, or other competent authority.

*Ninth.* In case of the dissolution of the said Corporation, all the property of the same shall vest in Trustees, in trust to hold and convey the same to and for any future Congregation or members of the Protestant Episcopal Church, which may be formed in the same neighborhood and to and for no other purpose; and the said Trustees shall consist of such persons as may be appointed by the proper Court, on the application of any interested party.

*Tenth.* The following-named persons shall be the Church Wardens and Vestrymen, to continue in office until the election on Easter Monday next, and until others be chosen, viz.: Charles V. Hagner, Senior Warden; John R. Whitney, Accounting Warden; Lewis R. Ashurst, John W. Claghorn, Chas. E. Clark, Isaac C. Price, Charles C. Haffelfinger, Albra Wadleigh, Edward Gulager, Jacob Emerick, Samuel Simons, John Marston, Jr., and William Stevenson Abbott.

## BY-LAWS.

### ARTICLE I.

#### ELECTION OF VESTRYMEN.

SECTION 1. The time and place of election for Vestrymen shall be announced to the congregation on the preceding Sunday. The Vestry shall choose two pewholders to be Judges of such election, and two alternates, whose duty it shall be to make return thereof to the Secretary, who shall thereupon notify the members elect of the result, and cause it to be read to the congregation on the succeeding Sunday.

SECTION 2. In case of a complete or partial failure to elect a Vestry on Easter Monday, the Rector, or, if there be no Rector, the Wardens of the Church, shall order a special election to be held as soon as conveniently may be. Notice shall be given of said supplementary election to the congregation on the Sunday preceding the day on which it is to be



holden, and the election shall be for the purpose of electing a Vestry, should there have been an entire failure to elect on Easter Monday, or for completing said Vestry, should there have been a partial election, and for no other.

## ARTICLE II.

### MEETINGS OF THE VESTRY.

SECTION 1. The Stated Meetings of the Vestry shall be held on the Tuesday next succeeding their election, and bi-monthly thereafter on the first Tuesday in April, June, August, October, December, and February.

SECTION 2. Special Meetings may be called at any time upon the *written* request of the Rector or any two members of the Vestry, stating the object for which the meeting is called; and no other business shall be transacted without the consent of *two-thirds* of those present.

SECTION 3. At any meeting of the Vestry, five members and the Rector, if there be one, shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business.

SECTION 4. The Rector shall preside at all meetings of the Vestry, regulate the debates, state the question, decide all points of order, subject to an appeal to the Vestry, (which shall be decided without debate.) and, in case of a tie, shall give the casting vote on all questions except such as concern the property of the Corporation. In his absence, the Rector's Warden shall preside, or, if he be absent, a chairman *pro tempore* shall be chosen.

SECTION 5. At the first meeting after their

election, besides the Church Warden directed by the Charter, (who shall also be the Accounting Warden,) the Vestry shall choose a Secretary, three Lay Deputies to the Diocesan Convention, and shall appoint a Sexton, and such other officers as may be required for the good government of the Church; and, in case of a failure to elect officers at this meeting, a special meeting shall be called for the purpose.

SECTION 6. All elections shall be by ballot, and a majority of the votes present shall be necessary to a choice.

SECTION 7. At Stated Meetings, the following shall be the order of business:—

1. Prayer.
2. Reading of Minutes of previous meeting.
3. Reports of Committees presented, and order taken thereon.
4. Unfinished Business.
5. New Business.

SECTION 8. When a question is before the Vestry, no motion shall be received unless to divide, amend, commit, or postpone; but a motion to adjourn shall always be in order, and shall be decided without debate.

SECTION 9. No vote shall be reconsidered except on a motion made by a member who had previously voted with the majority.

SECTION 10. The yeas and nays may be called by any two members.

## ARTICLE III.

### OF THE CHURCH WARDENS.

SECTION 1. They shall have a general superintendence over the property of the Corpora-

tion, and shall take care that the Sexton and other officers perform their respective duties in a satisfactory manner, and that order be maintained in and about the Church during the time of Divine Service.

#### ARTICLE IV.

##### OF THE ACCOUNTING WARDEN.

SECTION 1. The Accounting Warden shall be authorized to let, or otherwise dispose of the vacant pews and sittings, and also the pews and sittings of those persons who shall not have paid the rent thereof, as required by Article VI of these By-Laws. He shall collect the pew-rents as they become due, (which shall in all cases be in advance,) and for that purpose shall, with the Finance Committee of the Vestry, sit at such times as the Vestry may direct.

SECTION 2. He shall collect, or cause to be collected, all rents, interests, dividends, or other moneys due to the Corporation.

SECTION 3. He shall receive the moneys of the Church, and pay the same under the direction of the Vestry: except the salary of the Rector, which shall be paid monthly in advance, and bills due by the Corporation, not exceeding one hundred dollars in the aggregate.

SECTION 4. He shall keep a regular account of his receipts and expenditures in a book to be provided for that purpose, which shall be open at all times to the inspection of the members of the Vestry. He shall submit to that body an annual statement of his accounts and the financial condition of the parish at the

Stated Meeting in February, which shall be audited by the Finance Committee.

SECTION 5. He shall have charge of the Seal of the Corporation, to be affixed by him to such documents as require its attestation, and as the Vestry may direct—the Charter, and evidences of title to the property of the Corporation. At the expiration of his office he shall hand to his successor all books, moneys and other property that may be in his possession belonging to the Corporation within ten days thereafter.

SECTION 6. The Accounting Warden shall possess, and may exercise a discretionary power in respect to renting any pews or sittings in the Church, and may vacate pews or sittings already rented, at the expiration of the quarter for which pew-rent has been paid, when in his judgment the interests of the Church require such action, subject to the approval of two-thirds of the entire Vestry. He shall also declare to be free of rent any pews or sittings in the Church, and shall decline to receive rent therefor, when so directed by the Vestry.

#### ARTICLE V.

##### THE SECRETARY.

SECTION 1. The Secretary shall keep fair and correct minutes of the proceedings of the Vestry, notify the members of all meetings, call special meetings when required, and perform generally such duties as appertain to the office.

#### ARTICLE VI.

##### PEW-RENTS.

SECTION 1. The pew-rents shall be payable

quarterly, in advance, and become due on the first day of January, April, July, and October in every year; and the Accounting Warden and the Finance Committee of the Vestry shall attend at the Church to receive them, on the second and third Mondays of these months; notice thereof to be given from the desk on the Sunday preceding.

SECTION 2. Pews and sittings, the rents of which shall be in arrears for three months or more, may be forfeited to the Church, and be rented to other parties desiring them.

SECTION 3. When more than one person have rights to sittings in the same pew, no particular part or portion of the pew is to be considered as belonging to either or any of them, but all are to have a common right to the whole, and a separate right only to the seat occupied for the time being, except so far as courtesy may produce a different arrangement; and in case of difficulty or dispute between the occupants of any sittings, the Accounting Warden, upon complaint being made, shall require a compliance with this rule; a refusal to do which, shall forfeit the right of such persons to any sitting in said pew.

SECTION 4. No person shall rent or transfer his or her pew or sitting without the consent of the Wardens and Vestry being previously obtained.

SECTION 5. Any member of the Vestry who shall resign his pew or sitting in this Church will render his seat as a member of that body liable to be forfeited, and the Vestry at the next meeting thereafter may declare his seat vacant and prepare to fill the vacancy.

SECTION 6. In all cases when a part of a pew is rented to any person, the occupant of said

pew shall have the privilege of renting the said residue thereof to the exclusion of any person or persons who may desire or hold sittings in said pew.

## ARTICLE VII.

### ELECTION OF RECTOR OR ASSISTANT MINISTER.

SECTION 1. When the election of a Rector or an Assistant Minister is intended, the person to be elected must have been openly nominated at a previous meeting, and the notices for the meeting shall express that such nominations are then to be received; and the notices of a meeting at which an election is intended shall express that such election is then to be made.

SECTION 2. The election of Rector or Assistant Minister shall be by *Ballot*, and the votes of at least two-thirds of the Vestry present shall be necessary to a choice, provided that not less than seven members of the Vestry shall have voted in favor of the nominee, and in case of an Assistant Minister, the consent of the Rector (if there be one) must also be obtained.

## ARTICLE VIII.

### STANDING COMMITTEES.

SECTION 1. At the first meeting after their election, the Vestry shall appoint a Finance Committee, to consist of three members; and the Rector shall at the same time appoint Committees on Sunday School, music, and Church property. In case of a vacancy in the Rector-



ship, the Vestry shall appoint the last three Committees.

SECTION 2. The Rector shall be ex-officio a member of all Committees.

### ARTICLE IX.

#### ALTERATION OF BY-LAWS.

SECTION 1. All alterations or amendments to these By-Laws shall be proposed at one Stated Meeting, and acted upon at another, and must be approved by two-thirds of the members present.



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AMENDED CHARTER  
AND  
BY-LAWS  
OF THE  
CHURCH OF ST. MATTHIAS,  
PHILADELPHIA.

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1881.

RECTOR.

REV. ROBERT A. EDWARDS.

ASSISTANT.

REV. H. ALLEN GRIFFITH.

VESTRYMEN.

CHARLES B. BARRETT.

*Rector's Warden.*

HENRY S. GODSHALL.

*Accounting Warden.*

JAMES HAY,

JOSEPH R. DICKINSON,

THOMAS R. GILL,

CHARLES W. FUNK,

WILLIAM P. TROTH,

WILLIAM S. HARVEY,

MOSES PAXSON,

WILLIAM F. MOODY,

DAVID W. CHAMBERS,

LOUIS K. BALDWIN, M. D.,

*Secretary.*

AMENDED CHARTER

OF THE

CHURCH OF SAINT MATTHIAS.

WHEREAS, The following named persons citizens of this Commonwealth, viz: Lewis R. Ashhurst, John W. Claghorn, Charles V. Hagner, Charles E. Clark, Isaac C. Price, Charles C. Haffelfinger, Albra Wadleigh, Edward Gulager, Jacob Emerick, Samuel Simons, John Marston, Jr., John R. Whitney and William Stevenson Abbott, have, together with other citizens, associated for the purpose of worshiping Almighty God according to the faith and discipline of the Protestant Episcopal Church in the United States of America; and have for that purpose formed a Congregation in the Fifteenth Ward of the City of Philadelphia, and are now desirous to be Incorporated, agreeably to the provisions of the Act of the General Assembly of Pennsylvania, entitled "An act to confer on certain associations of the citizens of this Commonwealth, the powers and immunities of corporations, and bodies politic in law, and the supplements thereto." They, therefore, declare the following to be the objects, articles, and conditions of their said Association, agreeably to which they desire to be Incorporated, viz:

*First.*—That the name of the Corporation shall be, "The Rector, Church Wardens, and Vestrymen of the Church of Saint Matthias."

*Second.*—This Church acknowledges itself to be a member of, and to belong to, the Protestant Episcopal Church in the Diocese of Pennsylvania, and the Protestant Episcopal Church in the United States of America. As such, it accedes to, recognizes and adopts the Constitution, Canons, doctrines,

discipline and worship of the Protestant Episcopal Church in the Diocese of Pennsylvania, and of the Protestant Episcopal Church in the United States, and acknowledges their authority accordingly.

Any member of this Church, or Corporation, who shall disclaim or refuse conformity to the said authority, shall cease to be a member of this Corporation, and shall not be elected, or vote in the election of Vestrymen, or exercise any office or function in, concerning, or connected with, the said Church or Corporation.

*Third.*—The rents and revenues of this Corporation shall be, from time to time, applied for the maintenance and support of the Rector, Ministers, and officers of said Church, and in the erection, and necessary repairs of the Church, Churchyard, parsonage house, and other houses which now do or hereafter shall belong to the said Corporation, and to no other use or purpose whatsoever.

*Provided,* That all the property of the said Corporation shall be taken, held, and enure, subject to the control and disposition of the Vestry of the same; And provided, that the clear annual value or income of the real and personal estate, held by the said Corporation, shall not at any time exceed Five thousand dollars.

*Fourth.*—The Rector of this Church shall be elected by the Church Wardens and Vestrymen in such manner as the statutes and By-Laws shall ordain. The Vestry of said Church shall consist of twelve persons, Lay-members of the said Church, and citizens of Pennsylvania, who shall continue in office for one year, and until others be chosen, and the election of whom shall be made every year, on Easter Monday, by a majority of the members of said Church, present and voting, as shall appear by the vestry book to have paid two successive years, immediately preceding the time of such election, for a pew or sitting in said Church.

*Provided,* That until the first Easter Monday after the completion of the Church edifice, or use of the same for the purpose of religious worship, every contributor towards the erection of the said Church edifice, or the support of the Rector or

Minister thereof, shall be entitled to vote at every election of Vestrymen, one vote for every one hundred dollars of such contribution; And provided, That in case of the failure to elect Vestrymen on that day, the Corporation shall not on that account be dissolved; but the election shall be holden on some other day, in such manner as the By-Laws may prescribe; and any vacancy occurring in the Vestry shall be supplied by the remaining members thereof. At the meeting of the Vestry, the Rector, if present, may preside, and in all matters, except such as concern the property of the Corporation, shall be entitled, in common with the several members of the Vestry, to one vote.

*Fifth.*—No person shall be Rector or Assistant Minister of this Church, unless he shall have had an Episcopal Ordination, and unless he be in full standing with the Protestant Episcopal Church in the Diocese of Pennsylvania, and in the United States, and recognized as such by the Bishop of this Diocese, or, in case of a vacancy in the Episcopate, by the Standing Committee of the Diocese.

*Sixth.*—The said Vestry shall have full power to choose their own officers; and they shall annually at the first meeting after their election, choose one of their own number to be one Church Warden, and the Rector, for the time being, shall *elect* another of the said Vestrymen to be the other Church Warden of the said Church. In case of a vacancy in the office of Rector at the time of the election, the other Church Warden shall also be chosen by the Vestry, to remain until the election of a Rector, or a new election of the Vestry, and during such vacancy, all the powers of the Corporation shall be exercised by the Vestry, as fully and entirely as if no such vacancy had occurred; Provided, always, That it shall be the duty of the said Church Wardens and Vestrymen to elect another Rector to supply the vacancy as soon as conveniently may be.

*Seventh.*—By-Laws not inconsistent with this Charter may be made by the Vestry for their own government and the regulation of the temporal affairs of the Church, and all pews and sittings in the said Church shall be subject thereto.



*Eighth.*—This charter may be amended in the following manner, that is to say: Any proposed amendment shall be submitted to a stated or special meeting of the Vestry, and if the same shall be approved by a majority of the whole of the members thereof, the same shall be submitted to a meeting of the members of the congregation, who are entitled to vote for Vestrymen, and if approved by a majority of the persons present at such meeting, the same shall be submitted to the next Convention, and if it be approved shall be, and form part of the charter, upon the subsequent confirmation thereof, by the court which granted the original charter, or other competent authority.

*Ninth.*—In case of the dissolution of the said Corporation, all the property of the same shall vest in Trustees, in trust, to hold and convey the same to, and for, any future congregation or members of the Protestant Episcopal Church, which may be formed in the same neighborhood, and to and for no other purpose; and the said Trustees shall consist of such persons as may be appointed by the proper court on the application of an interested party.

*Tenth.*—The following named persons shall be the Church Wardens and Vestrymen, to continue in office until the election on Easter Monday next, and until others be chosen, viz: Charles V. Hagner, Senior Warden; John R. Whitney, Accounting Warden; Lewis R. Ashhurst, John W. Claghorn, Charles E. Clark, Isaac C. Price, Charles C. Haffelfinger, Albra Wadleigh, Edward Gulager, Jacob Emerick, Samuel Simons, John Marston, and William Stevenson Abbott.

(Signed)

LEWIS R. ASHHURST,	ALBRA WADLEIGH,
JOHN W. CLAGHORN,	EDWARD GULAGER,
CHARLES V. HAGNER,	JACOB EMERICK,
CHARLES E. CLARK,	SAMUEL SIMONS,
ISAAC C. PRICE,	JOHN MARSTON, JR.,
CHARLES C. HAFFELFINGER,	JOHN R. WHITNEY,
CHARLES E. LEX,	WILLIAM STEVENSON ABBOTT.

OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL.

I do hereby certify that I have perused and examined the above Charter of the "CHURCH OF ST. MATTHIAS," and am of opinion that the objects, articles and conditions therein contained are lawful.

(Signed)

JOHN C. KNOX,  
Attorney General.

January 29th, 1859.

We, the Justices of the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania, do certify that we have examined and perused the above-written Charter of the "CHURCH OF ST. MATTHIAS," and concur with the Attorney General in the opinion that the objects, articles and conditions therein set forth and contained are lawful.

Witness our hands in Philadelphia this fifth day of March, A. D. 1859.

(Signed)

W. H. LOWRIE,  
GEORGE W. WOODWARD,  
JAMES THOMPSON,  
W. STRONG,  
JOHN M. READ.

EASTERN DISTRICT OF }  
PENNSYLVANIA. } ss.

I, Robert Tyler, Prothonotary of the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania for the Eastern District, do hereby certify that the above and foregoing Instrument of Writing was presented to the Justices of the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania, and was by them duly allowed, as appears by their above Certificate.

In testimony whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the seal of the said Supreme Court, at Philadelphia, this fifth day of March, A. D. 1859. And it is ordered by said Court that the clear yearly value or income from all other sources other than real estate shall be limited to four thousand dollars.

(Signed)

I. NULLET,  
for Robert Tyler, Prothonotary.

Seal of  
the Supreme  
Court.

EXECUTIVE CHAMBER, Harrisburg, May 5th, 1859.

To WM. M. HEISTER,  
*Secretary of the Commonwealth.*

SIR:—Let the foregoing and within instrument of writing  
be enrolled according to Law.

(Signed)

WM. F. PACKER.

SECRETARY'S OFFICE, Pennsylvania, ss.

Enrolled in Charter Book Volume No. 8, pages 133, 134,  
135 and 136.

Seal of  
Secretary's  
Office.

In testimony whereof, I have hereunto set my  
hand and caused the seal of the Secretary's Office  
to be affixed, at Harrisburg, this fifth day of May,  
in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hun-  
dred and fifty-nine.

(Signed)

HY. L. DIEFFENBACH,  
*Deputy Secretary of Commonwealth.*

VESTRY ROOM, CHURCH OF ST. MATTHIAS, May 6, 1880.

L. K. BALDWIN, M. D.,  
*Sec. Vestry.*

DEAR SIR:—At a meeting of the pew-holders of the Church  
of St. Matthias, held May 1st, 1880, in the vestry room of the  
Church, due public notice thereof having been given by the  
Rector, the proposed Amended Charter was submitted from  
the Vestry:

It was resolved that the Secretary have printed 100 copies  
of the proposed Amended Charter for distribution to the pew-  
holders, and that this meeting adjourn to May 6, 1880—public  
notice to be given from the chancel on Sunday next.

On May 6, pursuant to said notice, the pew-holders met,  
when the proposed amendments to the charter were severally  
considered and approved by a majority of the persons present,  
and finally adopted as a whole, unanimously.

(Signed)

FRANK A. LYNCH,

*Chairman.*

(Signed)

ALPHONSO C. IRELAND,

*Secretary.*

PHILADELPHIA, May 7, 1880.

I do hereby certify that the proposed Amended Charter was,  
at a meeting of the Vestry held April 28, 1880, at which all  
the members were present, finally adopted as a whole, unani-  
mously.

L. K. BALDWIN, M.D.,

*Sec. Vestry.*

DIOCESE OF PENNSYLVANIA, EPISCOPAL ROOMS, 708 WALNUT ST.,  
PHILADELPHIA, May 10, 1880.

I approve of the changes made in the Charter of Church of  
St. Matthias, in order to make it conform to the form recom-  
mended by the Convention to the Diocese of Pennsylvania.

(Signed)

WM. BACON STEVENS,

*Bishop, &c.*

DIOCESE OF PENNSYLVANIA, Philadelphia, March 10, 1881.

At the meeting of the Convention of the Protestant Episco-  
pal Church in the Diocese of Pennsylvania, held May 12th,  
1880, the Committee on Charters submitted the following:

"The Committee on Charters report that they have examined  
the proposed amendments to the Charter of the Church of St.  
Matthias, that they find the amendments to be proper in form  
and unobjectionable in substance, that they therefore recom-  
mend that they be approved by the Convention."

On motion, the Convention approved of the proposed  
amendments to the Charter of the Church of St. Matthias.

From the minutes.

JNO. A. CHILDS, *Secretary.*

IN THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS NO. 1, FOR THE COUNTY OF PHILADELPHIA,  
OF SEPTEMBER TERM, A. D. 1880: No. 104.

And now to wit: November 20, A. D. 1880, it appearing to  
the Court that the amendments desired and proposed in the  
petition filed in this case to the Charter of "The Rector,  
Church Wardens and Vestrymen of the Church of Saint  
Matthias" of the City of Philadelphia, are lawful and will be



beneficial, and that they do not conflict with the requirements of the statute for such case made and provided, and of the Act of Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania approved the 29th day of April A. D. 1874, Sect. 42, P. L. p. 106, or of the Constitution, and I, William S. Peirce, one of the Judges of said Court, being further satisfied that due notice of said amendments has been advertised as required by law. It is hereby ordered and decreed that said amendments and the said Charter as amended are hereby approved. And it is furthermore ordered and decreed that upon the Recording thereof *sec. leg.* the same shall be deemed and taken to be a part of and the Charter of the said Corporation.

(Signed)

WM. S. PEIRCE.

Recorded in the office for Recording Deeds, &c., in and for the City and County of Philadelphia, in Charter Book No. 5, p. 334, &c.

Witness my hand and seal of office this Twentieth of November, A. D. 1880.

(Signed)



LOUIS WAGNER,

*Recorder of Deeds.*

## BY-LAWS

OF THE

## CHURCH OF ST. MATTHIAS.

### ARTICLE I.

#### *Election of Vestrymen.*

SECTION 1. The annual election of Vestrymen shall be held on Easter Monday, between the hours of four and six o'clock, P. M.: *Provided*, That the Church Wardens may, at their discretion, keep the polls open for a longer period. Notice of the election shall be given to the Congregation from the chancel on the preceding Sunday. The Vestry shall appoint three pew-holders to be judges of the said election, whose duty it shall be to immediately make a certified return thereof to the Secretary, who shall thereupon notify the Rector and Members-elect of the result, and also of the next stated meeting of the Vestry, and he shall present the certified return of election at the opening of the said meeting.

SEC. 2. The Secretary shall cause the result of the election, together with the appointment of Officers, to be read to the Congregation on the succeeding Sunday.

SEC. 3. If from any cause whatever the Vestry shall fail to appoint said judges of election, or they should not act, the duty of appointment shall devolve upon the Wardens. And in case of a failure to elect Vestrymen on Easter Monday, the election shall take place between the same hours on any other day the Vestry may appoint; but it shall be the duty of the Vestry to order such election within four weeks, and give no-



tice of the same to the Congregation from the chancel on the preceding Sunday.

SEC. 4. The Vestry shall fill vacancies which may occur in their own body; but no person shall thus be elected a Vestryman unless nominated at one stated meeting, and chosen by a majority of the members present at a subsequent meeting.

## ARTICLE II.

### *Election of Rector or Assistant Minister.*

SEC. 1. When the election of a Rector or an Assistant Minister is intended, the person to be elected must have been openly nominated at a previous meeting, and the notices for the meeting shall express that nominations are then to be received; and the notices of a meeting at which an election is intended shall express that such an election is then to be made.

SEC. 2. The election of Rector or Assistant Minister shall be by *ballot*, and the votes of at least two-thirds of the Vestry present shall be necessary to a choice: *Provided*, that not less than seven members of the Vestry shall have voted in favor of the nominee, and in case of an Assistant Minister, the consent of the Rector (if there be one) must also be obtained.

## ARTICLE III.

### *Appointment of Officers and Standing Committees.*

SEC. 1. At the first meeting after their election the Vestry shall elect one Church Warden, who shall be the Accounting Warden, and the Rector shall choose the other Church Warden, who shall be the Rector's Warden. The Vestry shall also elect a Secretary, Lay Deputies to the Diocesan Convention, and a Finance Committee to consist of three members; and shall appoint a Sexton, and such other Officers as may be required for the good government and service of the Church. The Rector at the same meeting shall appoint a Committee on Sunday School, a Committee on Music, and a Visiting Committee, each to consist of three members. The Rector shall

be, *ex-officio*, a member of all committees. In case of vacancy in the office of Rector, the Vestry shall elect all the Committees and the other Church Warden. In case of a failure to elect officers at this meeting, a special meeting shall be called for the purpose without delay.

SEC. 2. All elections shall be by *ballot*, and a majority of the votes of those present shall be necessary to a choice.

## ARTICLE IV.

### *Meetings of the Vestry.*

SEC. 1. The stated meetings of the Vestry shall be held on the day after the election, and on the second Tuesday in April, June, October, December, February and March.

SEC. 2. The Rector, either Church Warden, or any two Vestrymen may, upon written application to the Secretary, require special meetings to be convened at any time after due notice to the members, stating the object of meeting, but no other business than that stated shall be transacted at any such meeting without the unanimous consent of all the members present.

SEC. 3. Six members (or five with the Rector) shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business.

SEC. 4. The Rector shall preside at meetings of the Vestry, regulate the debates, state the question, decide points of order, subject to an appeal to the Vestry (which shall be decided without debate), and, in case of a tie, shall give the casting vote. In his absence, the Rector's Warden shall preside, or, if he be absent, a chairman *pro tempore* shall be chosen.

SEC. 5. The meetings of the Vestry shall be opened with prayer, and the order of business shall be as follows:

1. Reading of Minutes.
2. Report of Accounting Warden.
3. Reports of Committees, and order thereon.
4. Communications received.
5. Unfinished business.
6. New business.



SEC. 6. The Rules of order for conducting business shall be those usually governing similar deliberative bodies: *Provided* that the Vestry may adopt some standard manual upon rules of order and require conformity thereto.

SEC. 7. The yeas and nays may be called for by any member and shall be recorded by the Secretary.

## ARTICLE V.

### *Church Wardens.*

SEC. 1. The Church Wardens shall have a general superintendence over the property of the Corporation, and shall take care that the Sexton and other officers perform their respective duties in a satisfactory manner, and that order be maintained in and about the Church.

SEC. 2. They shall have power to make purchases of all articles necessary for the use of the Church, not exceeding in amount three hundred dollars per annum; and to order necessary repairs of the property.

## ARTICLE VI.

### *Accounting Warden.*

SEC. 1. The Accounting Warden shall receive the moneys of the Church, and pay the same under the direction of the Vestry, except the salary of the Rector, which he shall pay monthly in advance. He shall deposit in bank, or trust company, to be designated by the Vestry, the funds of the Corporation, and have them placed to his credit as Accounting Warden of the Church of St. Matthias, Philadelphia, in a separate account to be opened and kept for that purpose.

SEC. 2. He shall keep a regular account of his receipts and payments, which shall be open at all reasonable times to the inspection of the members of the Vestry; and he shall submit an annual statement of his accounts at the stated meeting in March, which shall be audited by the Finance Committee, and recorded on the minutes.

SEC. 3. He shall report to the Vestry at the stated meetings on the second Tuesday in April, June, October, December and February, brief statements of the current receipts, payments, income, liabilities, cash on hand, and such other information as the Vestry may require, which shall be entered upon the minutes.

SEC. 4. He shall have charge of the seal of the Corporation, to be affixed by him to such documents as may require it, and as the Vestry may direct—the Charter, and evidences of the title to the property of the Corporation, and of all articles the custody of which is not otherwise provided for. At the expiration of his term of office he shall hand to his successor all books, moneys and other property of the Corporation that may be in his possession.

## ARTICLE VII.

### *Secretary.*

SEC. 1. The Secretary shall keep fair and correct minutes of the proceedings of the Vestry, notify the Rector and members of all meetings, call special meetings when required, and perform generally such duties as appertain to his office. At the expiration of his term of office he shall deliver to his successor all books, papers, and other property of the Corporation that may be in his possession.

## ARTICLE VIII.

### *Standing Committees.*

SEC. 1. The Finance Committee shall have general supervision of the finances of the Corporation, and shall audit the accounts of the same annually, or oftener if required, by the Vestry or the Accounting Warden.

SEC. 2. The Committee on Sunday School shall give the Rector such aid and counsel as may be required in conducting the School. They shall require regular accounts of all the receipts and expenditures of the School to be kept, and furnish the Vestry a statement of the same in an annual report of



the condition of the School, to be made at the stated meeting in March.

SEC. 3. The Committee on Music shall aid the Rector in such arrangements as may be necessary, from time to time, in conducting the Music of the Church in strict accordance with the requirements of the Book of Common Prayer. They shall also have the care of the organ, the music books and sheet music belonging to the Church.

SEC. 4. No Committee shall have power to contract debts in the name of the Church, except when specially authorized by the Vestry.

#### ARTICLE IX.

##### *Sexton.*

SEC. 1. The Sexton shall have the constant care of the Church and Chapel, the enclosures and sidewalks; be in attendance at all services and meetings, and perform such other duties pertaining to his office as may be required of him.

#### ARTICLE X.

##### *Pews and Pew-holders.*

SEC. 1. A registry of the pews and sittings shall be kept under the direction of the Accounting Warden, who shall let the same subject to the Charter and By-Laws of the Church, and at the rents assessed upon them from time to time by the Vestry.

SEC. 2. All pew-rents shall be due and payable quarterly in advance on the first day of January, April, July and October in every year; and the Accounting Warden shall attend at the Church to receive the rents on the first and second Tuesdays of these months; notice thereof to be given from the chancel on the preceding Sunday.

SEC. 3. Pews or sittings, the rents for which shall be in arrears for three months or more, may, upon the representation of the Accounting Warden, be declared forfeited by the Vestry, and may be let to other parties desiring them; and the Vestry may

vacate pews or sittings, already rented, at the expiration of the quarter for which rent has been paid, when they, in their judgment deem it for the best interest of the Church so to do.

SEC. 4. In all cases where only part of a pew is let, the tenant shall have the privilege of renting the residue thereof; but, upon declining to do this, may not retain the part rented beyond the term for which rent has been paid, to the exclusion of others desiring to rent the entire pew.

SEC. 5. When more than one person have rights to sittings in the same pew, no particular part or portion of the pew is to be considered as belonging to either or any of them, but all are to have a common right to the whole, and a separate right only to the seat occupied for the time being, except so far as courtesy may produce a different arrangement; and in case of difficulty or dispute between the occupants of any sittings, the Accounting Warden, upon complaint being made to him, shall require a compliance with this rule; a refusal to do which shall forfeit the right of such persons to any sitting in said pew.

SEC. 6. When a renter desires to vacate a pew or sitting, notice thereof must be given to the Accounting Warden before the expiration of the term for which it was rented; otherwise liability will be incurred for a new term.

SEC. 7. No person shall sell, let, assign or transfer a pew or sitting without consent of the Wardens or Vestry; and in no case until all arrearages of rent shall be paid.

SEC. 8. Pews that have been sold by the Church, the rent for which shall be in arrears twelve months or more, shall be thereby forfeited to the Church. *Provided*, that before such forfeiture be enforced, three months' notice of the arrears shall have been given the owners or their representatives, by pew bill sent them; but, if neither can be found, the general notice given in the Church for the payment of rents shall be sufficient.

SEC. 9. Any Vestryman relinquishing or forfeiting his pew or sitting, shall thereupon cease to be a member of the Vestry.

SEC. 10. A pew shall be set apart for the use of the family of the Rector, free of rent.



SEC. 11. The Accounting Warden shall declare free of rent any pews or sittings in the Church, and decline to receive rent therefor, when so directed by the Vestry.

SEC. 12. No person shall alter a pew, change any of the arrangements thereof, or affix anything thereto without the consent of the Vestry.

## ARTICLE XI.

### *Sinking Fund.*

SEC. 1. A Sinking Fund shall be maintained for the extinguishment of the debt of the Church, to be under the management of the Finance Committee and the Accounting Warden, who shall be the Trustees of the Sinking Fund. All moneys at any time received from contributions, donations, collections, subscriptions and appropriations for the Sinking Fund, and for the extinguishment of the Church debt, and the surplus funds over the current expenses for each year, shall be paid into the said fund.

SEC. 2. The Accounting Warden shall keep the Fund separate and apart from all other moneys, accounts, and investments of the Church; and no part of the Fund shall at any time be hypothecated or used for any of the current expenses of the Church, or for any purpose other than the payment of the debt of the Church, until the same be extinguished.

SEC. 3. All money in the Fund shall be invested, whenever practicable, in the Bonds of the Church, or Loans of the United States, State of Pennsylvania, or City of Philadelphia, and the interest therefrom in like manner invested, until the Fund equals the outstanding indebtedness of the Church, when the Fund shall be applied to the payment of the debt: *Provided*, That the Vestry may authorize the debt to be paid off from time to time out of the Fund, whenever deemed expedient.

SEC. 4. At the first meeting after the annual election each year, the Trustees shall report to the Vestry an estimate of the receipts and expenditures of the Church, and a list of Special Collections, for the ensuing year; and the Vestry shall at this meet-

ing so arrange and determine the expenditures of the Church, including interest on the debt, that a reasonable proportion of the estimated receipts for the year shall be appropriated to the Sinking Fund. And they shall at the same time designate and fix the special collections, and the days when the same shall be taken up in the Church throughout the year: *Provided*, that this shall not prevent any other special collections that may be ordered by a vote of two-thirds of the members present at any meeting of the Vestry. All other collections (except the offertory at communion under control of the Rector) shall be for the Sinking Fund. The Accounting Warden shall cause cards to be placed in the pews as early as possible, thereafter, announcing to the Congregation the arrangement of collections for the ensuing year. Every collection under control of the Vestry shall be immediately counted by the Church Wardens, or Finance Committee, and the amount entered in a book to be kept for the purpose, before the collection is removed from the Church.

## ARTICLE XII.

### *Applications for the Church.*

SEC. 1. All applications for the use of the Church or Chapel, except for those purposes ordered by the General or Diocesan Convention, shall be made to the Rector and Church Wardens, who may grant or refuse the same, or refer them to the Vestry.

## ARTICLE XIII.

### *By-Laws.*

SEC. 1. No repeal, amendment, or addition to these By-Laws, shall be made, unless proposed at one stated meeting, and adopted by a majority of the entire Vestry at a subsequent stated meeting, after due notice to all the members of the proposed action.